

STATE SENATOR • DEBORAH CHERRY • 26TH DISTRICT

Cherry Press Release

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CHERRY NAMED TO MEDICAID GROUP *Burton Democrat to Improve Care for Seniors*

(LANSING) – Governor Jennifer Granholm recently appointed State Senator Deborah Cherry (D-Burton) to the Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force specifically designed to improve Michigan’s long-term care service network.

Sen. Cherry, who has over 15 years of experience working in aging services, joins nearly two dozen other members who represent lawmakers, church organizations, senior groups, and assisted living providers. The task force was created by Executive Order on April 2 and is required to issue an interim report on its activities by October 1, 2004.

“Our older population is responsible for building this great state of Michigan,” Sen. Cherry said. “They are owed a full and independent life in their older years. Michigan must complete the work which has been started to provide a continuum of services and care that ensures that Michigan residents have a rewarding and full life in their golden years.”

Among several directives, Gov. Granholm charged the task force with analyzing and reporting the relationship between state and federal Medicaid long-term care funding and its viability over the long term. The group is also responsible for effectively reducing barriers to an efficient system of home-based, community-based and institutional long-term care services.

“The work of this task force will be vitally important as we seek to improve community-based care for seniors, eliminate unnecessary regulatory barriers, and lessen the enormous pressure on the state’s Medicaid budget,” Gov. Granholm said in an official statement.

Sen. Deborah Cherry is a first-term Democrat from Burton, Michigan. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she sits on the Higher Education, Department of Community Health, Department of Natural Resources and Capital Outlay subcommittees.